

## Burning Permits

Open burning is not permitted in the Town of Harpswell without a permit. Permits can be obtained from Fire Wardens: Frank True, Dick Wyer and Lisa True at any time. In addition, permits may be obtained at the Town Office, during normal business hours Monday – Friday, from Pat Frank and Linda Strickland, and from Jim Gordon at the Recycling Center on Saturdays. Permits may also be obtained on-line from the State at [www.maine.gov/burnpermit](http://www.maine.gov/burnpermit).

In the interest of public safety, permits are not issued when the fire danger is determined to be "extreme" or "very high" by the Maine Forest Service, and only a limited number of permits are issued when the danger is "high." The Forest Service posts current fire hazard conditions daily on its website.

Burns should be planned for times when vegetation is damp and the wind is calm. Burning when the ground is snow-covered, during a light drizzle, and/or just before precipitation is forecast is ideal. Typically November-March offer the safest conditions for open burning.

When a burn permit is issued, the recipient agrees to follow a specific set of safe practices. These should be carefully reviewed before burning.

Burning must proceed with all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of fire and it must not create any nuisance conditions for neighbors. There should be no burning when wind speed exceeds 10 mph (5 mph when burning grass.) If the wind comes up the fire must be extinguished. Fires must be attended at all times by at least 2 adults with the water and tools needed for safety.

A written permit, whether issued by a warden or online, must be in the possession of the burner at the time of the burn. The person who signs for the permit is responsible for the fire. If fire escapes, that individual may be liable for suppression costs up to \$10,000 as well as for any damage caused to other property.